

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A method of holding or restraining a child in a desired position while giving the child a bath, comprising:

releasably attaching a restraint device to a torso of the child in order for at least one strap of the device to be circumferentially wrapped around the torso and so that a handle attached to the at least one strap extends laterally away from the strap so as to provide an opening into which fingers can be inserted and is positioned at or near a central balancing plane of the child's body between the child's head and buttocks and so that a portion thereof extends laterally away from the child's body to facilitate gripping of the handle;

gripping the handle with a first hand so as to hold or restrain the child in at least one of a sitting, standing or upright position within a container or basin that holds therein a quantity of water in order to prevent the child from falling over; and

washing the child with a second hand while gripping the handle with the first hand so as to maintain the child in at least one of a sitting, standing or upright position.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) A method as defined in claim 20, wherein the handle is attached adjacent to the child's spine or sternum.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~22~~ 20, further comprising releasably attaching a second handle on a side of the child's body opposite the handle so that one of the handles is adjacent to the child's spine and another is adjacent to the child's sternum ~~the second handle is positioned at or near the central balancing plane of the child's body.~~

25. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 24, further comprising gripping both handles while lifting the child into or out of the container or basin.

26. (Original) A method as defined in claim 20, wherein the container or basin comprises a bath tub.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A restraint device for use in holding or restraining a child in a desired position, comprising:

- a flexible corset or harness sized and configured so as to wrap around at least a portion of a child's body;

- at least one fastening device connected to the corset or harness that permits selective fastening and unfastening of the corset or harness around at least a portion of the child's body;

- a handle attached to the corset or harness in a manner so that the handle is positioned adjacent to the child's body and between the child's head and buttocks when the restraint device is in use, the handle being configured to be gripped by a person's hand so that at least a portion of the hand gripping the handle is disposed near the child's body; and

- a head restraint device comprising:

- a head engaging member having a concave region configured to receive and engage at least a portion of a child's skull region in order for the head restraining device to attach to a child's head and restrain the child's head in a desired position relative to the child's body when the restraint device is in use;

- a first restraint strap extending from the head engaging member to a rear portion of the flexible corset or harness; and

- a second restraint strap extending from the head engaging member to a front portion of the flexible corset or harness.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) A restraint device for use in holding or restraining a child in a desired position and in a balanced manner on opposite sides of the child's body, comprising:

a corset having an upper edge and a lower edge and comprising at least one strap having a length so as to wrap around a child's body, the strap including an underlying end and an overlapping end which overlaps the underlying end when the corset is wrapped around a child's body during use;

means for releasably fastening the corset to a child's body in a manner so that the overlapping end of the strap overlaps the underlying end when the corset is wrapped around a child's body;

a first handle attached to the corset approximately midway between the underlying end and overlapping end of the strap so as to be positioned on a central balancing plane that bisects a child's body into two halves when the corset is wrapped around a child's body during use, the first handle having a loop, at least a portion of which extends transversely between the upper and lower edges of the corset; and

a second handle attached to the corset near the underlying end of the strap so as to be positioned on the central balancing plane on a side of a child's body opposite the first handle when the corset is wrapped around a child's body during use, the second handle having a loop, at least a portion of which extends transversely between the upper and lower edges of the corset and that is positioned so that the overlapping end of the strap passes through the loop of the second handle when the corset is wrapped around a child's body use.

31. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 30, the first and second handles comprising at least one of a fabric, plastic, elastomer, metal, ceramic, or composite material.

32. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 30, the corset comprising a plurality of straps configured to wrap around at least one of a child's torso or limbs.

33. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 30, the means for releasably fastening the corset to a child's body comprising one or more of a hook and loop system, a buckle, a tie, a snap, a latch, or a ratchet attached to the corset.

34. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 30, the first and second handles being positioned relative to the corset so that one of the handles lies over a child's spine and the other of the handles lies at or near the child's sternum when the corset is wrapped around the child's body during use.

35. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 30, the first and second handles being positioned relative to the corset so that one of the handles lies on a child's left side under the child's left arm pit and the other of the handles lies on the child's right side under the child's right arm pit when the corset is wrapped around the child's body during use.

36. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 30, wherein at least one of the first or second handles is a releasable handle comprising first and second handle straps, each having an end permanently attached to the corset and a free end, and attachment means for releasably joining the free ends of the first and second handle straps in order to selectively form a loop, at least a portion of which extends transversely between the upper and lower edges of the corset.

37. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 30, further comprising a head restraint system attached to the corset and comprising a hood or strap having a concave region configured to receive and engage at least a portion of a child's skull region in order for the head restraining system to restrain the child's head in a desired position relative to the child's body when the head restraint system is in use.

38. (New) A restraint device for use in holding or restraining a child in a desired position and in a balanced manner, comprising:

a corset having an upper edge, a lower edge and a center and comprising at least one corset strap having a length so as to wrap around a child's body, the corset strap including a first end and a second end which are brought together when the corset is wrapped around a child's body during use;

means for releasably fastening the first and second ends of the corset strap together when the corset is wrapped around a child's body; and

a releasable handle attached to the corset at a location between the first and second ends of the corset strap so as to be positioned on a central balancing plane that passes through a child's spine and sternum and bisects the child's body into left and right halves when the corset is wrapped around a child's body during use, the releasable handle comprising:

a first handle strap having a permanently attached end and a free end, the permanently attached end of the first handle strap being attached to the corset so as to extend transversely between the center and upper edge of the corset;

a second handle strap having a permanently attached end and a free end, the permanently attached end of the second handle strap being attached to the corset so as to extend transversely between the center and lower edge of the corset; and

attachment means, disposed on the first and second handle straps, for releasably attaching the free end of the first handle strap to the free end of the second handle strap in order to selectively form a loop, at least a portion of which extends transversely between the upper and lower edges of the corset.

39. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 38, the corset comprising at least one of a fabric, plastic, elastomer, metal or composite material.

40. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 38, the corset further comprising one or more flexible straps sized and configured so as to wrap around at least one of a child's shoulders or legs.

41. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 38, further comprising a head restraint system attached to the corset and comprising a hood or strap having a concave region configured to receive and engage at least a portion of a child's skull region in order for the head restraining system to restrain the child's head in a desired position relative to the child's body when the head restraint system is in use.

42. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 38, the means for releasably fastening the first and second ends of the strap together comprising one or more of a hook and loop system, a buckle, a tie, a snap, a latch, or a ratchet attached to the strap.

43. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 38, further comprising a leash that is releasably attachable to the free end of at least one of the first or second handle straps when the first handle strap of the releasable handle is detached from the second handle strap.

44. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 43, the leash being releasably attachable to the free end of at least one of the first or second handle straps by engaging the attachment means disposed on the at least one of the first or second handle straps.

45. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 38, further comprising a second handle attached to the corset so that the second handle is positioned on the central balancing plane on a side of a child's body opposite the releasable handle so that one of the handles is positioned adjacent to a child's spine and the other handle is positioned at or near the child's sternum when the corset is wrapped around a child's body during use.

46. (New) A restraint device for use in holding or restraining a child in a desired position and in a balanced manner, comprising:

a corset having an upper edge and a lower edge and comprising at least one corset strap having a length so as to wrap around a child's body, the corset strap including an underlying end and an overlapping end which overlaps the underlying end when the corset is wrapped around a child's body during use;

means for releasably fastening the corset to a child's body in a manner so that the overlapping end of the corset strap overlaps the underlying end when the corset is wrapped around a child's body;

a first handle attached to the corset approximately midway between the underlying end and overlapping end of the corset strap so as to be positioned on a central balancing plane that bisects a child's body into two halves during use, the first handle having a loop, at least a portion of which extends transversely between the upper and lower edges of the corset; and

a releasable handle attached to the corset near the underlying end of the corset strap so as to be positioned on the central balancing plane on a side of a child's body opposite the first handle, the releasable handle comprising:

a first handle strap having a permanently attached end and a free end, the permanently attached end of the first handle strap being attached to the corset so as to extend transversely between the center and upper edge of the corset;

a second handle strap having a permanently attached end and a free end, the permanently attached end of the second handle strap being attached to the corset so as to extend transversely between the center and lower edge of the corset; and

attachment means for releasably attaching the free end of the first handle strap to the free end of the second handle straps in order to selectively form a loop, at least a portion of which extends transversely between the upper and lower edges of the corset and that is positioned so that the overlapping end of the corset strap passes through the loop of the releasable handle when the corset is wrapped around a child's body and the loop is formed during use.

47. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 46, the means for releasably fastening the corset to a child's body comprising a hook and loop system.

48. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 47, the hook and loop system comprising an area of hooks on a first surface of the corset strap near one of the underlying or overlapping ends and an area of loops on an opposite surface of the corset strap near the other of the underlying or overlapping ends.

49. (New) A restraint device as defined in claim 46, further comprising a leash that is releasably attachable to the free end of at least one of the first or second handle straps when the first handle strap of the releasable handle is detached from the second handle strap, the leash being releasably attachable to the free end of at least one of the first or second handle straps by engaging the attachment means disposed on the at least one of the first or second handle straps.

50. (New) A restraint device for use in holding or restraining a child in a desired position and in a balanced manner on both sides of the child's body, comprising:

a corset having an upper edge and a lower edge and comprising at least one strap having a length so as to wrap around a child's body, the strap including an underlying end and an overlapping end which overlaps the underlying end when the strap is wrapped around a child's body during use;

means for releasably fastening the corset to a child's body in a manner so that the overlapping end of the strap overlaps the underlying end when the corset is wrapped around a child's body;

a first handle attached to the corset approximately midway between the underlying end and overlapping end of the strap so as to be positioned on a central balancing plane that bisects a child's body into two halves when the corset is wrapped around a child's body during use, the first handle having a loop, at least a portion of which extends transversely between the upper and lower edges of the corset; and

a second handle attached to the corset near the overlapping end of the strap so as to be positioned on the central balancing plane on a side of a child's body opposite the first handle when the corset is wrapped around a child's body during use, the second handle having a loop, at least a portion of which extends transversely between the upper and lower edges of the corset and that is positioned on a portion of the overlapping end of the strap that overlaps the underlying end when the corset is wrapped around a child's body during use.